

Message Text

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P R 172201Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, YO

SUBJECT: U.S.-YUGOSLAV ECONOMIC WORKING GROUPS

REF: BELGRADE 5855

1. YUGOSLAV EMBASSY ECONOMIC COUNSELOR VISITED COMMERCE
ON AUGUST 15 AND CONFIRMED THAT FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETAR-
IAT HAD NOT APPROVED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR ECONOMIC
WORKING GROUPS. HE BELIEVES THAT THIS IS ONLY BUREAUCRATIC
PROBLEM DUE TO PERSONNEL CHANGES AND AUGUST VACATION
PERIOD.

2. GIVEN THE UNCERTAINTY THAT YUGOSLAVS WILL MAKE DECISION
ON TERMS OF REFERENCE IN TIME, WE SEE NO REASON TO PUSH
AHEAD WITH PREVIOUS PLANS FOR WASHINGTON SESSION OF FULL
WORKING GROUP. IT WOULD BE AWKWARD TO POSTPONE SESSION
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AFTER PREPARATIONS HAD REACHED ADVANCED STAGE, AND WE
WOULD FACE EMBARRASSMENT VIS-A-VIS U.S. BUSINESSMEN INVITED
TO ATTEND.

3. UNLESS EMBASSY CONSIDERS IT IMPORTANT THAT, IF AT ALL
POSSIBLE, A FORMAL MEETING TAKE PLACE BEFORE ASSISTANT
SECRETARY WEIL'S VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD

BE BETTER TO MOVE THE MEETING BACK TO A LATER DATE. IN

ITS PLACE, A SMALL INFORMAL MEETING BETWEEN ASSISTANT
SECRETARY WEIL AND AMBASSADOR BELOVSKI, ATTENDED BY OTHER
COMMERCE AND STATE REPRESENTATIVES AND POSSIBLY U.S.-
YUGOSLAV ECONOMIC COUNCIL PRESIDENT WALKER, COULD BE
ARRANGED. THIS WOULD AVOID PLACING EXAGGERATED
IMPORTANCE ON RAPID APPROVAL OF TERMS OF REFERENCE WHILE
ALSO SATISFYING BELOVSKI'S DESIRE TO MOVE FORWARD IN
WORKING GROUPS AND HAVE PART OF THE ACTION HERE.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS. VANCE

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